

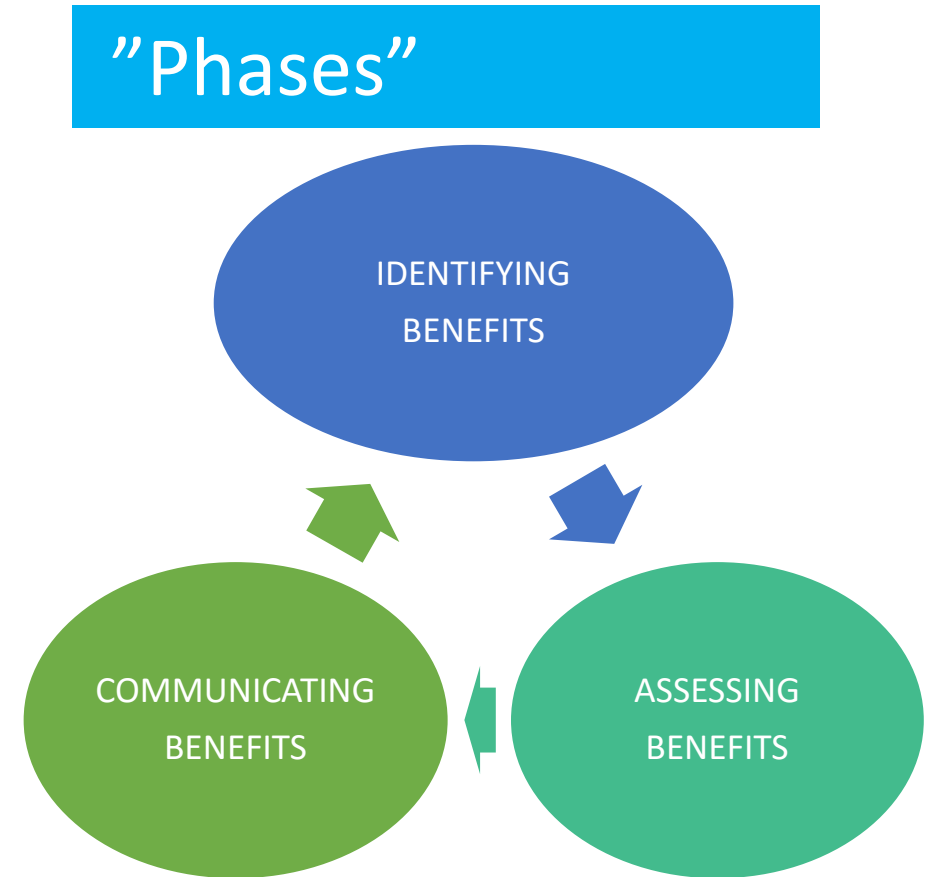
Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation



Chantal Demilecamps, secretariat of the Water Convention, UNECE

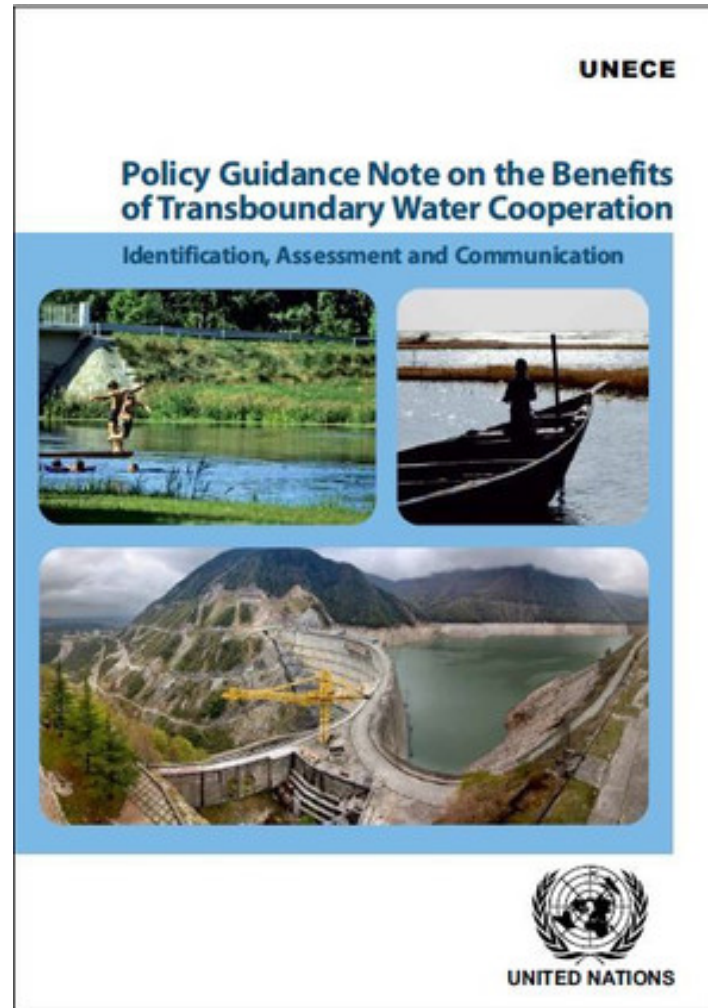
Why to assess the benefits to promote or strengthen transboundary water cooperation?

- TWC generates more benefits than those traditionally considered
- An benefit assessment (with a high participative component) can provide fact-based argument that generates credible results to start up or develop stronger cooperation
- It facilitates the engagement of different sectors
- We need to (better) communicate the benefits of TWC to decision-makers
- It can help attract financial resources to implement water cooperation solutions



The Policy Guidance Note aims to contribute to the realisation of the potential benefits of transboundary water cooperation (TWC)

- Tool of global relevance
- Recommends to carry out benefit assessments
- Conceptual framework and guidance (starting point, flexible methodology), no technical guidance
- Learning exercise -- “pilots” in CORB, Drina, SMM, a benefit focus on SASS



Contents

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Launching a benefit assessment exercise
- Identifying benefits
- Evaluating benefits
- Communicating benefits

It can be applied to cooperation process at different levels of maturity

Tailor the assessment to the needs of the cooperation process

<i>Stage of development of the transboundary water cooperation policy process</i>	<i>Needs of the transboundary water cooperation policy process</i>	<i>Focus of the benefit assessment exercise</i>	<i>Main focus of the assessment phase</i>
Pre-Initial stage (e.g. basins characterized by political conflict)	Establish the conditions for launching a cooperation process	Identification of mutually beneficial opportunities from shared water resources	Rapid qualitative assessment of key benefits
Initial stage (e.g. basins without international agreement or transboundary coordination body)	Launch of the cooperation process, supported by awareness raising on the need to cooperate	Identification of the full range of the benefits of cooperation	Rapid qualitative assessment of all identified benefits
Medium stage (e.g. negotiations on an agreement ongoing or basins with international agreement, but without coordination body)	Consolidation of the cooperation process through negotiations, strategic planning and the implementation of basic cooperation initiatives (e.g. information sharing)	Broad assessment of the range of benefits of cooperation (including cost of non-cooperation)	In-depth qualitative assessment of all identified benefits Include easily available quantitative and monetary estimates
Advanced stage (e.g. basins with international agreement and coordination body)	Realisation of the potential benefits of cooperation through the implementation of advanced cooperation initiatives (e.g. infrastructure projects, coordinated management instruments)	Assessment of the benefits of independent national projects, joint projects, or a basin programme of measures	Carry out quantitative and monetary valuation, when justified given available resources

A detailed identification of benefits represents a significant step forward

- Past and potential future benefits
- "Process benefits" vs "development outcome benefits"
- Wide range of benefits – "benefits matrix"
- Net benefits
- Beneficiaries
- Importance of a participative process

<i>Origin of benefits</i>	<i>Benefits for economic activities</i>	<i>Benefits beyond economic activities</i>
<i>Improved water management</i>	<p>Economic benefits Expanded activity and productivity in economic sectors (aquaculture, irrigated agriculture, mining, energy generation, industrial production, nature-based tourism) Reduced cost of carrying out productive activities Reduced economic impacts of water-related hazards (floods, droughts) Increased value of property</p>	<p>Social and environmental benefits Health impacts from improved water quality and reduced risk of water-related disasters. Employment and reduced poverty impacts of the economic benefits Improved access to services (such as electricity and water supply) Improved satisfaction due to preservation of cultural resources or access to recreational opportunities. Increased ecological integrity and reduced habitat degradation and biodiversity loss Strengthened scientific knowledge on water status</p>
<i>Enhanced trust</i>	<p>Regional economic cooperation benefits Development of regional markets for goods, services and labour Increase in cross-border investments Development of transnational infrastructure networks</p>	<p>Peace and security benefits Strengthening of international law Increased geopolitical stability and strengthened diplomatic relations New opportunities from increased trust (joint initiatives and investments) Reduced risk and avoided cost of conflict and savings from reduced military spending Creation of a shared basin identity</p>

The assessment will be imperfect, but still useful

- Looking at the past and the future
- Mostly qualitative assessment, but combine
- Favour “joint”, “integrated” and “participative” assessment
- Assess the benefits reaped by other riparians
- Possible perspective: costs of inaction



Assessing different types of benefits

ECONOMIC

- Greatest scope for monetary valuation (e.g. CBA of infrastructure)
- “Soft” solutions harder to quantify
- Techniques to quantify impacts on national economy very demanding

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL

- Less scope for quantification and monetary valuation
- Monetary values likely to be contested

REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

- Largely rely on qualitative assessments
- Some quantification possible (e.g. expansion of regional infrastructure)

PEACE AND SECURITY

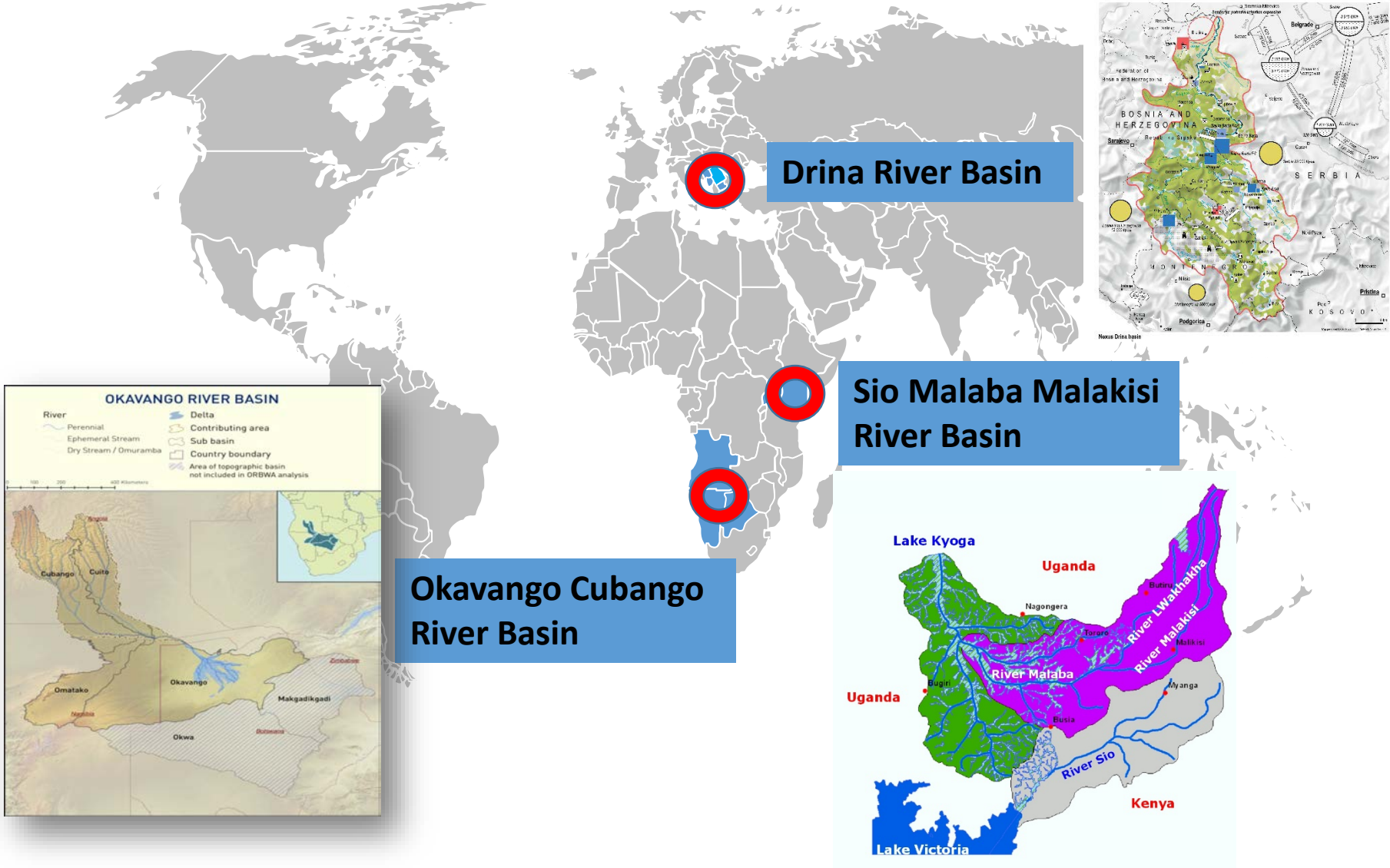
- Qualitative assessment (e.g. traffic lights)
- Avoid quantification and monetary valuation

A BAE is fundamentally a communication exercise

- We want to convince someone (decision-makers, stakeholders, donors) to do something different
- A major outcome of a BAE is probably the “education” of the participants
- The results of a BAE can be the basis of a communication plan on the transboundary cooperation efforts (and the value of the associated institutions)
- Do not spend all resources on identification and evaluation



3 projects applying the Policy Guidance Note on benefits



Thank you!

- For more information:

Contact:

Chantal.demilecamps@unece.org